

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.120**

2 (By Delegates Talbott, Fragale, Guthrie, Hall, Manypenny, Martin,
3 L. Phillips, R. Phillips, Pino, Shaver, Swartzmiller, Wells,
4 Anderson, Duke, Ellem, Evans and Romine)

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9 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the
10 the effect of transferring supervisory and jurisdictional
11 responsibilities of all or part of Coopers Rock State Forest from
12 the Division of Forestry to the Division of Natural Resources and
13 prohibiting the sale of timber in all or part of Coopers Rock State
14 Forest.

15 WHEREAS, All West Virginia state forests are managed by and
16 under the jurisdiction of the Division of Forestry, except for
17 Kanawha State Forest; and

18 WHEREAS, Kanawha State Forest is managed by and under the
19 jurisdiction of the Division of Natural Resources; and

20 WHEREAS, Sale of timber from Kanawha State Forest is
21 prohibited; and

22 WHEREAS, Legislation was introduced to transfer supervisory
23 and jurisdictional responsibilities of Coopers Rock State Forest
24 from the Division of Forestry to the Division of Natural Resources
25 and prohibiting the sale of timber from the Coopers Rock State

1 Forest, treating Coopers Rock State Forest like Kanawha State
2 Forest; and

3 WHEREAS, Coopers Rock State Forest south of I-68 is utilized
4 by the public for recreational purposes; and

5 WHEREAS, In the past twelve months, there were approximately
6 200,000 recreational visitors to the portion of the forest south of
7 I-68; and

8 WHEREAS, There are concerns about timbering and the effects of
9 timbering on the portion of the forest located south of I-68; and

10 WHEREAS, The West Virginia University Division of Forestry and
11 Natural Resources utilizes Coopers Rock State Forest north of I-68
12 for research; and

13 WHEREAS, If the supervisory and jurisdictional
14 responsibilities of the forest were transferred to the Division of
15 Natural Resources and timber harvest prohibited, the West Virginia
16 University Division of Forestry and Natural Resources may be
17 required to relocate all educationally based labs for students, all
18 professional training and outreach programs, and all research that
19 would use Coopers Rock State Forest relative to management and
20 stand manipulation; and

21 WHEREAS, Transferring supervisory and jurisdictional
22 responsibilities of all or part of Coopers Rock State Forest from
23 the Division of Forestry to the Division of Natural Resources could
24 have a significant fiscal impact to the Division of Forestry and
25 the West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Natural

1 Resources; and therefore be it

2 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

3 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
4 requested to conduct a study on the effect of transferring
5 supervisory and jurisdictional responsibilities of all or part of
6 Coopers Rock State Forest from the Division of Forestry to the
7 Division of Natural Resources and prohibiting the sale of timber on
8 all or part of Coopers Rock State Forest; and, be it

9 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
10 Finance report to the Legislature, on the first day of the regular
11 session, 2012 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations
12 together with drafts of any legislation to effectuate its
13 recommendations; and, be it

14 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this
15 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
16 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
17 Government and Finance.